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SRI M. ETHIRAJULU :—" Sir, is there any Government order to open dhobikhanas in all municipalities, the population of each of which exceeds 50,000? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The hon. Member is asking a general question. The main question relates to the Ootacamund dhobikhana, Sir."

Questionnaire issued by the Elementary Education Committee.

* 254 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM (on behalf of Sri T. M. Daivasikhamani Achariar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance and Education be pleased to state whether the Government have perused the questionnaire issued by the Elementary Education Committee and, if so, whether they have any proposal to instruct the Committee (i) to issue a few more questions inviting views and suggestions on cottage industries as well and (ii) to issue future notifications and circulars in Tamil?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" There is no proposal to add to the questionnaire now. The suggestion to publish such matter in the relevant Indian Languages will be considered in future."

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—" May I know when the report of the Committee is expected to be finalised and whether we can expect the projected reforms to be introduced in the ensuing academic year? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am expecting the report in June. Whether it can be examined in time for changes to be introduced in the next academic year is a thing which can be said only on the receipt of the report."

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHI :—" Sir, can the Government give any information as to the number of persons interviewed by the Committee and the number of replies received to the questionnaire issued by it? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I cannot give the information now."

Enquiry into cases against drivers of the Government Transport Department.

* 255 *Q.*—SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state with reference to the statement of the Inspector-General of Police in the annual report for 1952—

(*a*) why cases relating to drivers of the Government Transport Department are referred to the Enquiry Committee; and

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(b) why this distinction is made between drivers of the Government Transport Department and other drivers?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (a) All cases against the State Transport workers for contravention of the Motor Vehicles Act and Rules which are punishable with imprisonment for over six months (with or without fine) are charged by the Police straightway before the appropriate Magistrates. All other cases, namely, those which may involve punishments lesser than those specified above are referred to the Enquiry Committee consisting of the Assistant Transport Commissioner, Labour Welfare Officer, and Assistant Commissioner of Police (Traffic and Licensing), for taking a decision whether the cases should be dealt with departmentally or charge-sheeted before the Magistrates concerned. The above procedure has been prescribed in order to avoid the infliction of double punishments simultaneously —one departmental and the other judicial—against the Transport workers. Further the cases referred to the Enquiry Committee are disposed of without any delay whatsoever and the punishments recommended by the Enquiry Committee have the necessary deterrent effect.

" (b) Considering the commercial nature of the Transport Department and in view of the fact that a large number of traffic offences were expected to be committed by the traffic crew, which should naturally be disposed of quickly especially in a commercial undertaking, a special procedure as referred to in clause (a) above is being followed in respect of the drivers of the Government Transport Department."

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" The reply given by the Hon. Minister is very lengthy. If it is placed on the table of the House, we can put supplementary questions on it later on."

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I have no objection to placing it on the table of the House."

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN :—" We shall put supplementaries day-after-to-morrow."

Provision of up-to-date meters in motor taxis and auto-rickshaws.

* 256 Q.—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM (on behalf of Sri T. M. Daivasikhamani Achariar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state whether the Government propose to substitute the existing meters in motor taxis and auto-rickshaws by up-to-date meters which give only the fare due and, if so, when?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" In Madras City taxis are fitted with taxi meters, which indicate the fare to be paid by a passenger at the end of a journey and there is therefore no need to substitute the meters in these taxis. In the mufassal, all taxis are not fitted with taxi meters. The question of fitting milo-meters to these taxis in the mufassal